

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 75

By Gilmore

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Peggy Jean Cockerham.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Peggy Jean Cockerham; and

WHEREAS, Peggy Cockerham was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born on September 5, 1956, in Elkin, North Carolina, to the late Artis Oscar Cockerham and Larnell Hill Cockerham, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Greensboro College in 1978 and a Master of Business Administration degree in Finance from Clark-Atlanta University; and

WHEREAS, a former vice president of NationsBank in North Carolina, Ms. Cockerham left banking in 1989 to pursue a career in the automotive business. She opened Southlake Buick-Volvo-Subaru in December 1992, and, later, she opened Franklin Pontiac Buick GMC Inc., becoming one of the first minority women to own a General Motors dealership; and

WHEREAS, after more than twenty years in the automotive industry, Peggy Cockerham worked as an Investigator Officer at the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, in which position she served at the time of her passing; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to her community, she was a member of a number of organizations, including the Chamber of Commerce in Atlanta and Nashville, National Association of Minority Auto Dealers, Nashville Foundation for Women of Color, 100 Black Women, Inc., in Atlanta and Nashville, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated; she was board chair of Ujima House, Inc., and a lifetime member of the NAACP; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and awards, Ms. Cockerham received the Minority Business of the Year Award in 2006; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Cockerham began her life of faith at Samaria Holiness Church in Stuart, Virginia; she later joined Cascade United Methodist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, and

WHEREAS, Peggy Cockerham was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Cockerham will be lovingly remembered by her sisters, Vickie Hill and Patty Etheridge; her brother, Daniel (Brooke) Cockerham; her aunts, Betty Gaither, Carrie Hill, Betty Scales, Joann Cockerham, and Essie Bee Gist; her uncle, Joe Cockerham; her niece, Angelica Cockerham; her nephew, Michael Etheridge; and a host of dear relatives and close friends; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Cockerham leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Peggy Jean Cockerham, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Ms. Cockerham.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.